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PROBS Mostly cloudy and cold with some light
local snow.

The Toronto World

SENATE READING ROOM
11-17-19
SENATE PO OTTAWA
SATURDAY MORNING DECEMBER 8 1917 —EIGHTEEN PAGES
VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,541

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BLIZZARD PUTS STOP TO RESCUE WORK AT HALIFAX

LATEST ESTIMATE GIVES TOTAL DEAD AS FIFTEEN HUNDRED NOW ESTIMATE 1500 KILLED AT HALIFAX

Hoped Toll of Dead Will Be Materially Less Than First Reported—Relief Measures Taken—All the Fires Are Reported Under Control.

Halifax, N.S., Dec. 7.—Dartmouth's death list is believed to be between 80 and 100. Members of the citizens committee this afternoon declared they believed the total of all dead might be reduced to 1500.

An emergency meeting of the citizens of Halifax was held at the city hall today. Lieutenant-Governor Grant and Deputy-Mayor Colwell presided.

No words were wasted and the large audience listened with intense interest and ringing applause to the sheaf of telegrams from near and far which have poured in with messages of sympathy and promises of assistance, much of which is on the way, some already here. Two telegrams came from the Duke of Devonshire, "regretting news, hoping for exaggeration, tendering sympathy and offering aid."

Calls to all the nearby towns which were sent yesterday, for medical supplies, doctors and nurses, were answered immediately and are still being answered, together with telegrams from Moncton, Amherst, Bridgewater and Antigonish.

Mrs. Jessie Jones, director of woman's work, Washington, D.C., wired, offering Red Cross supplies and asking for information as to what is most needed.

Vancouver, Saskatoon, Quebec, The Daily Star of Montreal, Hamilton and Kentville have sent messages of sympathy. St. John sends two carloads of food. Windsor sends similar offerings and assurances of aid.

The American ship in port offered 150 blankets. Mr. Porter of the Ter-

FIVE MILLION DOLLARS FOR STRICKEN HALIFAX

U. S. Congress Asked to Appropriate Sum for Relief of Sufferers.

Washington, Dec. 7.—A joint resolution to appropriate \$5,000,000 for the relief of the stricken people of Halifax was introduced in congress today by Rep. Tague of Massachusetts.

Boston Sends \$100,000.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 7.—More than \$100,000 was raised here today for the relief of Halifax.

Several Relief Trains.

New York, Dec. 7.—Several special trains furnished by the New York Central Railroad were speeding from here for Halifax tonight with every facility for supplying aid to the stricken city. They carried 400 men, together with \$15,000 worth of tools, \$150,000 worth of lumber, 1,000 portable houses and 25 motor trucks.

The party includes a special salvage corps under 20 expert engineers who will restore whatever houses can be saved, and direct the construction of temporary shelter as rapidly as possible.

The following articles, valued at more than \$200,000, were carried by one train: 4,330 pairs of socks and 3,034 pairs of bed socks, 10,080 sweaters, 10,080 pieces of men's, women's and children's clothing, 10,000 blankets, 20 cases containing 100 gallons of disinfecting fluid, 20,000 pounds of bandages, 486 coats and a carload of foodstuffs.

Female offers food and shelter to 200 people.

Captain De Carriere of the French Cable, tenders offer of a temporary hospital, a heated shed and a store of blankets and wounded. This may be accepted for the 80 inmates of the dead and dumb institution.

(Concluded on Page 10, Column 4).

HEBRON IS OCCUPIED BY ALLENBY'S FORCES

Traditional Site of Tombs of Patriarchs Now in Hands of British.

London, Dec. 7.—General E. H. Allenby reports that he has occupied the Town of Hebron, in Palestine. The British war office officially announces tonight.

Ancient Hebron, today called by the Arabic name of El Khil, is situated about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem, with approximately 25,000 inhabitants. Although the British forces are nearer to Jerusalem on the west and the northwest, the taking of Hebron is of interest, because tradition identifies it as the site of the tombs of Abraham and other patriarchs. King David resided here for his first seven years of his reign. A magnificent mosque, accessible only by Mohammedans, stands on the original site of the patriarchs' burial place.

IRISH REDISTRIBUTION

Nationalists and Ulstermen Plan More Equitable Representation.

London, Dec. 7.—A conference of Nationalist and Ulster members of the house of commons, under the chairmanship of the Speaker, has been provided for to arrange a redistribution of the Irish parliamentary seats. This was announced in the house of commons today after the house had finally passed the bill for redistribution and other electoral reforms under which Great Britain and all parts of Ireland are to have equitable representation with regard to population.

ONLY LOCAL FIGHTING

Infantry Engaged Only in Raids, Gen. Haig Reports.

London, Dec. 7.—Today's war office statement on military operations on the Franco-Belgian front reads: "The infantry action on the Cambrai front, which was limited to a young child which was rescued from the ruins in Richmond on Friday morning seemed to be unhurt."

There is an unexpressed fear in the hearts of the workers that under the debris in some places where the fire still creeps and smoulders there may be some persons unharmed, but unable to escape from their serious position.

Families Reunited.

Since the first lists of killed and missing were published some of those reported in both lists have been found, and some families have been reunited. Reports say that George Hillis, wife and child have been found on board one of the ships in the harbor, but Frank D. Hillis is still missing and at the worst is feared.

At all hospitals every available bit of space is being put to use. All doctors, nurses, V. A. D. and other helpers have been pressed into service, and still the need can hardly be met.

Physicians and nurses have shown an unselfish devotion and capacity for prolonged effort under the tremendous strain that has made their work positively heroic. Private homes throughout the city have opened their doors to welcome those who escaped with little more than their lives. Children are staying at towns and villages along the railway line, and many a childless mother's sacred drawer or trunk has been at last emptied, and glorified in the emptying, for the sake of the naked little ones thrust upon her care.

It was said that a Belgian relief rummage sale for clothing, etc., had robbed Halifax of the surplus of clothing in the homes, but when the call for aid came it was nobly answered.

As soon as the news became known offers of assistance and aid were received from the sister Provinces of

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 4).



RUMANIAN TROOPS JOIN NEGOTIATIONS

Agree to Talk Armistice, But Refuse to fraternize With Teuton Soldiers.

Jassy, Rumania, Thursday, Dec. 6.—It has been decided that the Rumanian troops shall associate themselves with the Russians in the proposed armistice, but the Rumanians have rejected every attempt at fraternization, says an official announcement made here today. Hostilities were suspended today on the whole front.

The official announcement follows: "The Russian Government having proposed an armistice to the enemy and to the Rumanian troops forming part of the front, the Rumanian troops have accepted the proposal to associate themselves with this proposal. As a consequence hostilities were suspended at eight o'clock on the whole of the front."

The enemy's troops loudly manifested their satisfaction and endeavor to approach the Rumanian troops to fraternize with them. The Rumanian troops maintained a reserved attitude and rejected every attempt at fraternization."

FORMAL WAR DECLARATION BY U. S. A. AGAINST AUSTRIA

Only One Dissenting Vote When Congress Decides America Shall Engage in Hostilities Against Germany's Chief Ally.

Washington, Dec. 7.—War between the United States and Austria-Hungary was formally declared today. Congress, with one dissenting vote in the house, adopted, and President Wilson approved, a resolution declaring the existence of a state of war between "Imperial and Royal Austria-Hungarian Government and the government and people of the United States," authorizing the president to employ the nation's armed forces and pledging its resources to victory.

The resolution, the response of congress to the president's request, is similar to the adopted last April declaring war on Germany. It became effective at 10:28 p.m. yesterday, when it was signed by the executive without formality. An executive proclamation will follow shortly.

After but one hour's debate, the resolution was unanimously adopted by the senate. It was approved by the house 383 to 1. Rep. London, the

New York Socialist, casting the only dissenting vote. A few minutes later Vice-President Marshall and Speaker Clark had signed the document and sent it to the White House, where President Wilson attached his signature with Secretary Tamm and Assistant Secretary Forster as the only witnesses.

In accordance with President Wilson's advice, action in respect to Turkey and Bulgaria was left to the future. Widespread sentiment in congress for their inclusion in the declaration was indicated in both senate and house debate, but when the roll calls came the president's request was followed.

Rep. London, Socialist, of New York, who cast the one negative vote, explained his opposition by stating that he was pledged to that course

(Concluded on Page 10, Column 4).

NOT A BUILDING IS UNDAMAGED IN WHOLE CITY

General Effect of Big Explosion Very Noticeable Throughout Halifax.

BIG AREA WRECKED

Fatal Collision is Believed Due to Defective Steering Gear.

Halifax, Dec. 7.—A howling blizzard is raging here. Rescue workers in the devastated section of the city have been forced to cease their activities.

Following in the wake of death and destruction of yesterday, a heavy snowstorm set in early this morning, adding to the discomfort of the homeless, and impeding the work of the rescuers.

The devastated area extends from North street to Africville, on the shores of Bedford Basin, about two miles, and from the waterfront west to Gittingen street, about three-quarters of a mile.

There is wreck and ruin on every side. There is not a building in the city that did not suffer from damage. All are without glass, plaster is down, and windows and doors shattered.

On every side carpenters and property-owners are busily at work on their premises to keep out the storm. All the power plants are still idle. No new estimate of the cost of the damage was available this morning. Blue-jackets from an American warship in port did patrol duty on all the streets of the city last night.

The civic authorities and the newspapers of Halifax are making every effort to secure the relief of the dead and wounded, but everything is in such a state of chaos that little progress is being made.

According to further details obtained today, a French munition steamer, carrying four thousand tons of munitions, including 100 tons of considerable quantity of trinitrotol, the most highly explosive material manufactured, and a Belgian relief steamer came into collision off pier eight, just at the entrance of the basin. A deck

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 1).

BUILDINGS AT TRURO FILLED WITH WOUNDED

Surgical Operations Performed on Many Persons—Several Die of Injuries.

Truro, N.S., Dec. 7.—The Truro Academy, the court house, the fire hall and the military hospitals were tonight with the wounded who have arrived from Halifax in endless procession all day. The Red Cross and all the townspeople are doing their utmost to relieve the suffering. Their hearts are heavy, but their minds are fastened on the urgent work before them. There are no idlers. Several of the injured have died in the trains while in transit. Others have died after reaching Truro. Operating rooms have been improvised and numbers of serious cases requiring the surgeon's knife have been operated upon. The best professional skill the province commands is being employed.

The hospital records already show instances where whole families have been wiped out.

BLIZZARD RAGES AT HALIFAX AND STOPS WORK OF RESCUE

Heavy Snow Storm Adds to Misery of Victims of Nova Scotian Tragedy—Every Hospital in City Crude.

Halifax, N.S., Dec. 7.—If anything were needed to add to the horrors of the tragedy which overwhelmed Halifax on Thursday morning, and which greatly hampered the rescuers today, it was the heavy fall of snow, which began early this morning and continued all day, reaching the proportions of a blizzard tonight. It was a heavy, waxy snow that hung to the cheeks, blinded the eyes and hampered the movement. Automobiles were proceeding by inches only, and those persons still working among the ruins suffered intensely from the cold.

Stories have come in that emphasize the fact that life and death are very close to each other. Deaths that are too horrible for words occurred side by side with the most miraculous escapes.

A six-year-old child was blown thru the roof of a house on Young

NUMEROUS CASUALTIES AMONG NAVAL CADETS

Big Number of Staff and Cadets at Naval Academy, Halifax, Injured, Only Two Seriously.

Ottawa, Dec. 7.—A statement issued this evening by the naval department thru the chief press censor gives a list of the casualties among the members of the staff and cadets at the Royal Naval College, Halifax. The college, according to the statement, was completely wrecked by the explosion, and only the walls are standing. The cadets are billeted in the towns with friends, and those suffering from injuries have been sent to private hospitals, as the naval hospital is in the same condition as the college. Cadets, says the statement, are reporting to the "Noble" and will be sent home at the first opportunity.

Following is a list of the casualties: MacKenzie, eye injured, serious; Orde, face cut, presume serious, not yet located but known to be in hospital; Edwell, cut face; Marquis, cut lip; Brent, cut face and shoulder; Pentleew, cut hand and eye, serious; Biles, cut hand; A. C. Lee, cut lip; Holmes, cut face; Kingsmill, cut face; Hillard, cut face; Kingstry, cut face; Richardson, cut face; Roy and Wilson, cut faces; Beck, Marier, Eyles, Myers, Desbarats, Kinross, Reynolds, Hague, Adams, Adams, Mitchell, Crowle, Budden, Fickard, Woolcombe, A. B. Smith, and Davy, slight cuts; MacKinnon, on leave.

Commander Nixon and Eng. Lieut. Commander Howley have been seriously injured. Eng. Lieut. Curry is suffering from slight cuts on the head, and Naval Instructor Robinson is given as injured. Most of the injuries were caused by broken glass.

FURS FOR MOTORING.

Winter furs in complete variety, including robes for motoring, fur caps and gauntlets, and fur and fur-lined coats for winter motoring and driving. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.

LINE MUCH IMPROVED BY NEW BRITISH GAIN

Ulster Troops Capture Enemy Trenches in the Neighborhood of La Vacquerie.

London, Dec. 7.—The British official statement issued tonight says: "A successful local operation was carried out today north of La Vacquerie (Cambrai sector). Trenches constituting our objective were captured by the Ulster troops, making a considerable improvement in our line at this point."

"South-east of Ypres our patrols last night successfully attacked hostile working parties. Northwest of Ypres a hostile trench was captured and a number of casualties were inflicted on the enemy. In these encounters prisoners were taken."

PROPERTY DAMAGE SUSTAINED IN POOR DISTRICT

Twenty-Five to Thirty Million

Halifax, N.S., Dec. 7.—The following statement was issued tonight by Mr. Justice Harris of Halifax, chairman of the citizens' finance committee:

"The committee of the citizens of Halifax was appointed to make a public statement on the damage to the City of Halifax and the Town of Dartmouth, and after as careful a survey as possible of the damaged area, the committee reported that while every building in Halifax and Dartmouth was more or less damaged, the devastated area is found near the scene of the explosion, and embraces chiefly districts occupied by workers and the poorer classes. Between three and four thousand of such dwellings have been completely destroyed by the explosion or by fire. The number of those affected is estimated at 25,000, and while, of course, the circumstances of all or even most of them cannot be ascertained until each one's case is investigated, yet it is feared that the destitute poor in the area will number upwards of 20,000 and their actual loss and the estimated cost of their temporary maintenance will reach between twenty-five and thirty million dollars. It is to be clearly understood that in this estimate the number of persons rendered destitute are considered, and this is the portion of the population of Halifax and Dartmouth least able to bear the loss, and which must be immediately relieved by generous assistance of their fellow-citizens throughout Canada."

TERMS INACCEPTABLE

Bolsheviks Told to Abandon Peace Conditions or Resume Fighting.

London, Dec. 7.—A Renter despatch from Petrograd today says: "When General Hoffmann (Von Hoffmeister?), chief German delegate to the armistice conference, heard the Russian terms for an armistice he became very angry and said: "If you repeat them we will fight."

MACLEAN MEETINGS, SOUTH YORK

Three Meetings Joint with West York.

Saturday, Dec. 8.—
Ma'kham Town Hall.
Speakers: Rev. William Patterson, D. D., Code's Church, Toronto; W. F. Maclean, Miss Wiseman, Aid. Ball and other.

Sunday, Dec. 9.—
Mt. Dennis (York Tp.).
Silverthorn (York Tp.).
Weston Town Hall.

These three meetings joint with West York.

Tuesday, Dec. 11.—
Todmorden St. Andrew's Hall.
Barrington Avenue School (York Tp.).
Flaxter Hall (Lanarkshire).

Wednesday, Dec. 12.—
Unionville (Markham Tp.).
Oakwood (York Tp.).
Fairbank (York Tp.).
Friday, Dec. 14.—
Barracourt (Ward Six), Belmont Assembly Hall.
Saturday, Dec. 15.—
Wilcox Hall (York Tp.).

BLOODSHED IN BOLIVIA

Eight Anti-Government Demonstrators Killed by Soldiers.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 7.—Despatches from La Paz, Bolivia, report that eight civilians were killed and thirty wounded, and one soldier was killed and several wounded, during the disorders that occurred Wednesday after a sitting of the chamber of deputies in La Paz. The casualties were the result of attempts by the soldiers to disperse a government political demonstration.